

Global Logistics on the Web

Introducing DAISY System 1

BFS have delivered a state of the art web based stock management system for Yamatake Europe.

The decision by Yamatake Europe to implement a web based system was prompted by the long lead time for delivery of ordered goods from Japan. A main feature of the new system, written in Zope and PostgreSQL, is its ability to automatically calculate stock levels and order amounts for 3 months in advance based on shipping information from Japan and on the 12 months sales forecast from clients. The system, which runs on a Blue Box IX200 installed within the clients LAN, was also a key component in the move by Yamatake Europe to have a warehousing site including assembly based in Europe.

The new web based application handles incoming order processing, stock management, and the generation of purchase orders to the head office in Japan.

Ian Cottee, Technical Director for Blue Fountain said "A main requirement of the new system was that it must integrate with the accounting system "Exact" used by Yamatake Europe."

John Breckon, Project Director commented "Because of the size and complexity of the system, we divided the total project into 8 modules which we then worked on and developed independently. This approach allowed us to deliver the total system within 3 months."



"A main requirement of the application was that it should integrate seamlessly with the customer's own accounting system"

Real Time Stock Control

Introducing ARCTOP System 2



Name	Model	Type	Departure Date	ETA/ATA	Modified	Status	Arrival
3200	SHD		15/11/2004	14/01/2005	06/12/2004 07:00	In Transit	02/01/2005
3200	SHD		23/11/2004	21/01/2005	20/12/2004 07:00	In Transit	02/01/2005
3271	SHD		13/01/2005	11/02/2005	13/01/2005 07:00	In Transit	

Asahi Glass Europe has implemented an open source web based stock management system developed by Blue Fountain Systems. The application, which runs on a Blue Box EX100 installed within the BFS data centre in Brussels, allows real-time management of stock levels for plasma TV screens that are manufactured in Japan and shipped to the Sony factory in Spain.

The system gives Asahi Europe staff in Amsterdam day to day control over stock levels and allows staff based in Japan to add shipping information making the total order processing system seamless.

Asahi Glass is a multinational company, with operations centering on glass, electronics, displays and chemicals. The company which first started in Japan in 1907 now has a global network of over 350 subsidiaries and affiliates in over 20 other countries worldwide.

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Surrey NHS choose Open Source 'Plone' CMS

At their meeting on Monday 17th January the Senior Management of the Surrey NHS Health Informatics Service (Surrey HIS) decided to choose the "Plone" Open Source Content Management System as the basis of all Internet and Intranet requirements across the NHS in Surrey.

The organisation provides Web systems and support for 16 NHS Trusts including 7 PCT's and 4 major Acute Hospitals. The Solution was proposed by Peter White - a senior Surrey HIS Manager with responsibility for Web development across the Surrey Area. Mr White commented "Our choice wasn't only based

on cost. From a rigorous analysis of 7 major systems, we found that the 'Plone' system came top in terms of performance and features too". He added "We expect to use Liverpool based "Blue Fountain Systems" as our major technology partner to develop our Plone strategy during the coming months."

"Our choice wasn't only based on cost...the 'Plone' system came top in terms of performance and features too." Said Mr White - a senior Surrey HIS Manager

Blue Box Solutions

A Range of Hosted Linux Services

BlueBox is a service and product range available from Blue Fountain. The range is based on a pre-built server running Linux, that is available at a low cost monthly rental. An extremely cost-effective server solution, BlueBox is the result of extensive research and development. Clients with Blue Box installations are on record as having systems with 99% up-time over periods greater than 1 year.

There are a number of Blue Box options available which can be tailored to meet the requirements of most organisations.

Blue Box EX series provides for fully maintained web and mail servers.

Blue Box IX series is intended as a 'perimeter' server providing a Gateway between the Internet and a Local Area Network.

Blue Box FX series is primarily an internal file and print server

New Plone based Web Strategy for PMETB



BFS have developed a new content management system for The Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB) using Plone the leading open source CMS.

PMETB was established by the General and Special Medical Practice (Education and Qualifications) Order, approved by Parliament on 4th April 2003, to develop a single unifying framework for postgraduate medical education (PGME) and training across the UK.

The new site went live in December 2004 and can be viewed at www.pmetb.org.uk

Britain in Europe opt for a Blue future



“I believe that web based communication will have a key role to play in the forthcoming referendum campaign” said Lucy Powell, Campaign Director BiE

BFS have taken on the support, hosting and future development of the Britain In Europe web site www.britainineurope.org.uk

Britain in Europe, which was launched by Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, Ken Clarke, Michael Heseltine and Charles Kennedy in 1999, brings together people from all around the UK and from all walks of life who believe that Britain is better off in Europe.

Correction

In the September edition of the Blue Fountain Newsletter it was stated

“Blue Fountain has become one of only 3 sequence suppliers to Toyota Motors in the UK having delivered a new mission critical system for wheel and tyre assembly to the car manufacturer.”

This is in fact incorrect and the piece should have read

“Blue Fountain Systems have delivered a new mission critical system for wheel and tyre assembly to Toyota Tsusho Assembly Systems., one of only 3 sequence suppliers to Toyota Motors in the UK.”

We apologize to Toyota Tsusho Assembly Systems for any confusion or misunderstanding this error may have caused.

Open Source Update

Plone Training Success

The first Plone Training course held at the BFS offices last September was a great success.

Matt Lee, Developer Lead, National Programme for Information Technology in the NHS who attended the course commented “The Plone course with Andy McKay was concise and superbly led, and with excellent course materials. Blue Fountain expertly delivers training to the free software community.”

Additional courses are planned for later in the year.

Companies given the chance to “Broadband their Horizons”

BFS have teamed up with Merseyside Broadband to host a seminar entitled “Broadband your horizons and look into supply chain solutions for the 21st century”.

Aidan McGuire, main speaker, said “The idea behind the event is to provide companies within the North West a chance to see the benefits broadband communication used in conjunction with web based stock and client management systems can deliver.” He added “People will also be given the opportunity to see web based applications including Stock and Supply Chain Management.”

Topics covered included

- XML the new EDI - what is it?, why use it?
- Using broadband to link into supply chains
- Virtual warehousing
- Linking customer relationship management & supply chain management

To receive details on any future seminar events or training courses please e-mail ktakano@bluefountain.com.

Competition Winner

We are pleased to announce that Dr R M Head from FrameworksNW has won the web vote competition and will be receiving half a case of wine shortly.

WIRELESS COAST

BFS play leading role in Sefton ICT consortium's innovative middleware for a 'Ribble-to-the-Dee' wireless corridor.

2004 has seen the rapid development of a local initiative sparked by the Sefton cluster that, if it receives the backing to go ahead, could be looking at global applications.

Wireless Coast – an extension of the Wireless Southport initiative - is already tipped as a potential national beacon project. Managed and driven forward by the local business community, the original scheme this year was to make Southport the first UK wireless enabled resort town with both the infrastructure and information content to connect visitors and event promoters instantly to a rich communications network. It is now clear that if the project is given the green light, it could hold the innovative edge in developing international wireless environments.

Aidan McGuire project leader, member of Sefton ICT and director of BFS explained 'We are creating an infrastructure, plus unique middleware systems that tie component applications together to enhance user experience.'

He added 'We know this has worldwide significance as communities inevitably go wireless. In England's Northwest, our vision is to set an international precedent with initially a 20-mile-long wireless community corridor from Southport to Liverpool that would be extended from the River Ribble to the Dee estuary.'

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BFS Support Derian House Children's Hospice

Sam and Lily representing children from Blue Fountain hand over a cheque to a member of the care team at Derian House.

Blue Fountain Systems decided in 2004 not to send the traditional corporate Christmas card and looked instead to sending an e-card to clients and friends. The £400 saved has been donated by Blue Fountain to Derian House Children's Hospice

Derian House Children's Hospice www.derianhouse.co.uk is a registered charity which provides terminally ill children and their families with the optimum care, support and means to lead as full and normal a life as possible. It gives the children a home from home, and as much fun and laughter as they can pack into their shortened lives.

Hiro Iwasaki, BFS Managing Director, said "When we made the decision to donate the money from this years Christmas cards to charity the choice of charity was quite difficult. However as all of the directors of Blue Fountain have young children we all recognize and appreciate the essential role Derian House has in providing palliative care to children in the North West"

Gone to the Dogs !!!



Blue Fountain staff opted for a night's dog racing at Manchester's Belle Vue race track rather than the usual office Christmas party. Organised by Stephanie Breamer, BFS Financial Controller, the evening was a great success with most people winning at least one bet !! As Kyoko Takano Marketing Manager said "It was a great night which we all enjoyed and I did win but not quite enough to retire on

If you have any comments on this newsletter or if you would like further information on any story, please:

e-mail: info@bluefountain.com or call: 0870 0202 111